



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/662,152	09/12/2003	Richard C. Wilson	12230-008	8747

757 7590 11/23/2005

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, IL 60610

EXAMINER

CHEVALIER, ALICIA ANN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

1772

DATE MAILED: 11/23/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/662,152

Applicant(s)

WILSON, RICHARD C.

Examiner

Alicia Chevalier

Art Unit

1772

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 September 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

RESPONSE TO AMENDMENT

1. Claims 1-7 are pending in the application.
2. Amendments to claim 7, filed on September 22, 2005, have been entered in the above-identified application.

REJECTIONS

3. **The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.**

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takemoto (U.S. Publication No. 2001/0046594) in view of Schmooch (U.S. Patent No. 5,344,692).

Takemoto discloses a decorative sheet (*title*) to be applied to building materials, such as walls, and surface materials of, for example, fittings such as doors and furniture (*page 1, paragraph 0001*) which may have a leather appearance (*page 2, paragraph 0020*).

Regarding Applicant's claim 1, Takemoto discloses a thermoplastic laminate veneer (*decorative sheet, title*) for a preformed substrate (*furniture, page 1, paragraph 0001*). The veneer comprises a top layer including a sheet of a first acrylic material (*primer layer, page 4, paragraphs 0054 and 0055*), an intermediate image layer formed of one or more sheets of PVC material (*pattern layer, page 2, paragraph 0020*), at least one intermediate layer sheet having a face presenting image (*page 2, paragraph 0020*), and a bottom layer formed of at least two

Art Unit: 1772

sheets of a second acrylic material (*substrate and sealer layer, page 2, paragraphs 0017 and 0018 and page 4, paragraphs 0045-0047*).

Takemoto fails to disclose that the bonded interface between the at least two sheets of the second acrylic material causes a discontinuity that bridges a surface imperfections of the substrate when the veneer is mounted on the substrate.

Schmoock discloses a decorative sheet for use on leather like substrates (*col. 1, lines 21-40*). The sheet comprises an inner layer called a leveling or equalizing layer which can contain one or more pigments so that it actually hides the uneven side of the substrate (*col. 8, lines 41-45*). Furthermore, the material do the inner layer can be a thermoplastic substance that is flowable in response to heat so that the bonded interface between the inner layer material cause a discontinuity that bridges surface imperfections of the substrate when the sheet is mounted to the substrate (*col. 8, lines 53-57 and figure 1*).

Takemoto and Schmoock are analogous because they both disclose decorative laminate sheets.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to make Takemoto bottom layer a leveling or equalizing layer as taught by Schmook in order to bond the interface between bottom layer and the substrate to bridge surface imperfections in the substrate. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to use a leveling or equalizing layer because it would hides the uneven side of the substrate (*Schmoock col. 8, lines 41-45*).

Regarding Applicant's claim 2, Takemoto discloses that each of the at least two sheets of the second acrylic material has substantially the same thickness (*figure 2*).

Regarding Applicant's claim 3, Takemoto discloses that one of the first and second acrylic materials is impact modified (*page 2, paragraphs 0017-0018 and page 4, paragraphs 0045-0055*).

Regarding Applicant's claim 4, Takemoto discloses that the second acrylic material is substantially identical to the first acrylic material (*page 2, paragraphs 0017-0018 and page 4, paragraphs 0045-0055*).

Regarding Applicant's claim 5, Takemoto discloses that the top layer includes one or more selected from the group consisting of colorants, pigments and decorative metallic flakes (*page 2, paragraph 0020*).

Regarding Applicant's claim 6, Takemoto discloses that the upper surface of the top layer includes a textured surface finish (*page 2, paragraph 0020*).

Regarding Applicant's claim 7, Takemoto discloses that the first layer further includes a scratch-resistant coating applied to an upper face of the acrylic sheet (*page 2, paragraph 0023*).

ANSWERS TO APPLICANT'S ARGUMENTS

5. Applicant's arguments in the response filed September 22, 2005 regarding the 35 U.S.C. 103 rejection over Takemoto in view of Schmooch of record have been carefully considered but are deemed unpersuasive.

Applicant argues that Takemoto does not disclose the limitation "a bottom layer formed of at least two sheets of a second acrylic material.

Art Unit: 1772

The examiner respectfully disagrees with Applicant's assertion since Takemoto discloses a substrate made of an acrylic and a sealer layer made of an acrylic (*page 2, paragraphs 0017 and 0018 and page 4, paragraphs 0045-0047*).

Applicant further argues that the substrate is not part of the veneer.

The examiner disagrees with Applicant since the complete decorative sheet disclosed by Takemoto includes the substrate. Therefore, it is part of the veneer.

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

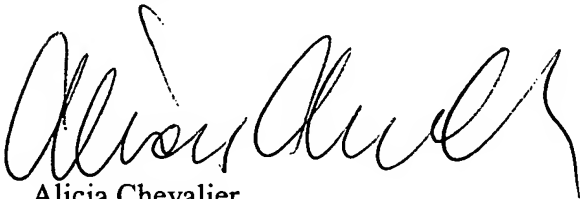
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alicia Chevalier whose telephone number is (571) 272-1490. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Art Unit: 1772

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Pyon, can be reached on (571) 272-1498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alicia Chevalier', with a stylized, flowing script.

Alicia Chevalier
Primary Examiner
11/21/05